Serial No.:

TBD

Filing Date:

August 4, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of all claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-98 (Canceled)

- 99. (New) An enzyme solution comprising an anti-freeze protein and an enzyme; wherein said enzyme retains enzymatic activity after at least one freeze/thaw event.
- 100. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, wherein said enzyme retains activity after more than ten freeze/thaw events.
- 101. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, further comprising a buffer.
- 102. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 101, wherein said buffer is zwitterionic.
- 103. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, further comprising a carrier protein.
- 104. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 103, wherein said carrier protein is bovine serum albumin (BSA).
- 105. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, wherein said anti-freeze protein comprises an alanine-rich motif.
- 106. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, wherein said anti-freeze protein is an AFP Type I protein.
- 107. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 101, wherein said enzyme solution has a pH from about 7.9 to about 8.9.
- 108. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, further comprising a polyol.
- 109. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 108, wherein said polyol is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol and trehalose.
- 110. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 108, wherein said polyol comprises sorbitol and trehalose.

Serial No.:

TBD

Filing Date:

August 4, 2006

111. (New) The enzyme solution according to Claim 99, wherein said anti-freeze protein has a concentration of from about 10 ug/ml to about 200 ug/ml.

- 112. (New) The enzyme solution according Claim 99, wherein said enzyme is a DNA polymerase and the addition of said enzyme solution to an amplification reaction mixture improves the sensitivity and yield of the nucleic acid amplification reaction.
- 113. (New) A reaction mixture for use in a nucleic acid amplification reaction, comprising dNTPs and an enzyme solution according to Claim 112.
- 114. (New) A method for enhancing the stability of an enzyme over the course of two or more freeze/thaw events, comprising the addition of an anti-freeze protein to an enzyme solution containing said enzyme prior to said freeze thaw events.
- 115. (New) A method for increasing the sensitivity and yield of a nucleic acid amplification reaction, comprising combining a target nucleic acid sequence with at least one primer in a reaction mixture according to Claim 113 and amplifying said target nucleic acid sequence, wherein the inclusion of said anti-freeze protein increases amplicon yield and sensitivity.
- 116. (New) An improved method for detecting a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample, comprising combining said sample with at least one primer in a reaction mixture according to Claim 113 and amplifying said target nucleic acid sequence; wherein the inclusion of said anti-freeze protein increases signal intensity and improves the signal-to-noise ratio.
- 117. (New) An improved method for quantifying a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample, comprising combining said sample with at least one primer in a reaction mixture according to Claim 113 and amplifying said target nucleic acid sequence; wherein the inclusion of said anti-freeze protein increases signal intensity and improves the signal-to-noise ratio.
- 118. (New) A kit comprising: a solution comprising an anti-freeze protein and an enzyme.
- 119. (New) The kit of Claim 117 wherein the solution further comprises a carrier protein.